

Lesson 2

Understanding the Data:

P.L. 94-171 Data Files, Topics, and Geographies

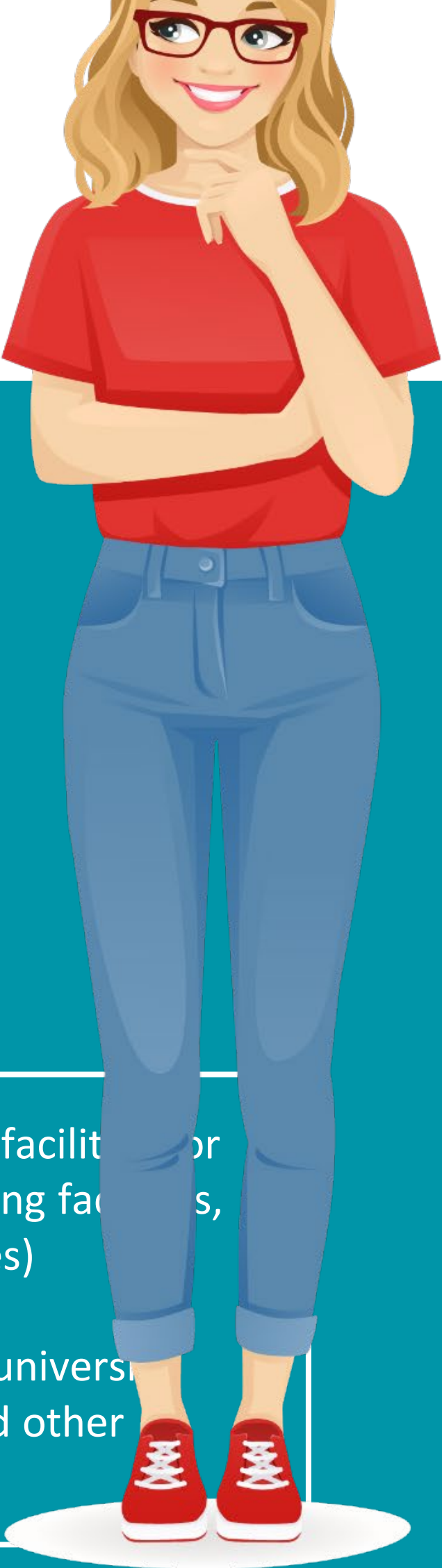
- What data are available: geographies and subjects
- What other circumstances the data could be used outside of the purposes of redistricting

What are the P.L. 94-171 Data Files?



- ✓ Public Law (PL) 94-171, enacted in 1975, directs the Census Bureau to make special preparations to provide redistricting data needed by the states.
- ✓ The PL 94-171 data were derived from questions asked on the 2020 Census questionnaire.
- ✓ For each area reported, the file provides a count of all persons and of persons 18 years of age and older.
- ✓ The data files provide population and housing tabulations (Group Quarters and Occupancy Status), for all States.

What Topics are Available in the P.L.94-171 Data?



Tables:

P= Population

H= Housing

- P1. Race
- P2. Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race
- P3. Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- P4. Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- P5. Group Quarters Population by Major Group Quarters Type
- H1. Occupancy Status

White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Other

Total housing unit counts
Occupied housing units
Vacant housing units

Institutionalized (correctional facilities for adults, juvenile facilities, nursing facilities, and other institutional facilities)

Noninstitutionalized (college/universities, housing, military quarters, and other noninstitutional facilities)

Administrative Geographies, What's the Difference?

Congressional Districts

- The 435 areas from which **members** are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives

State Legislative Districts (SLD's)

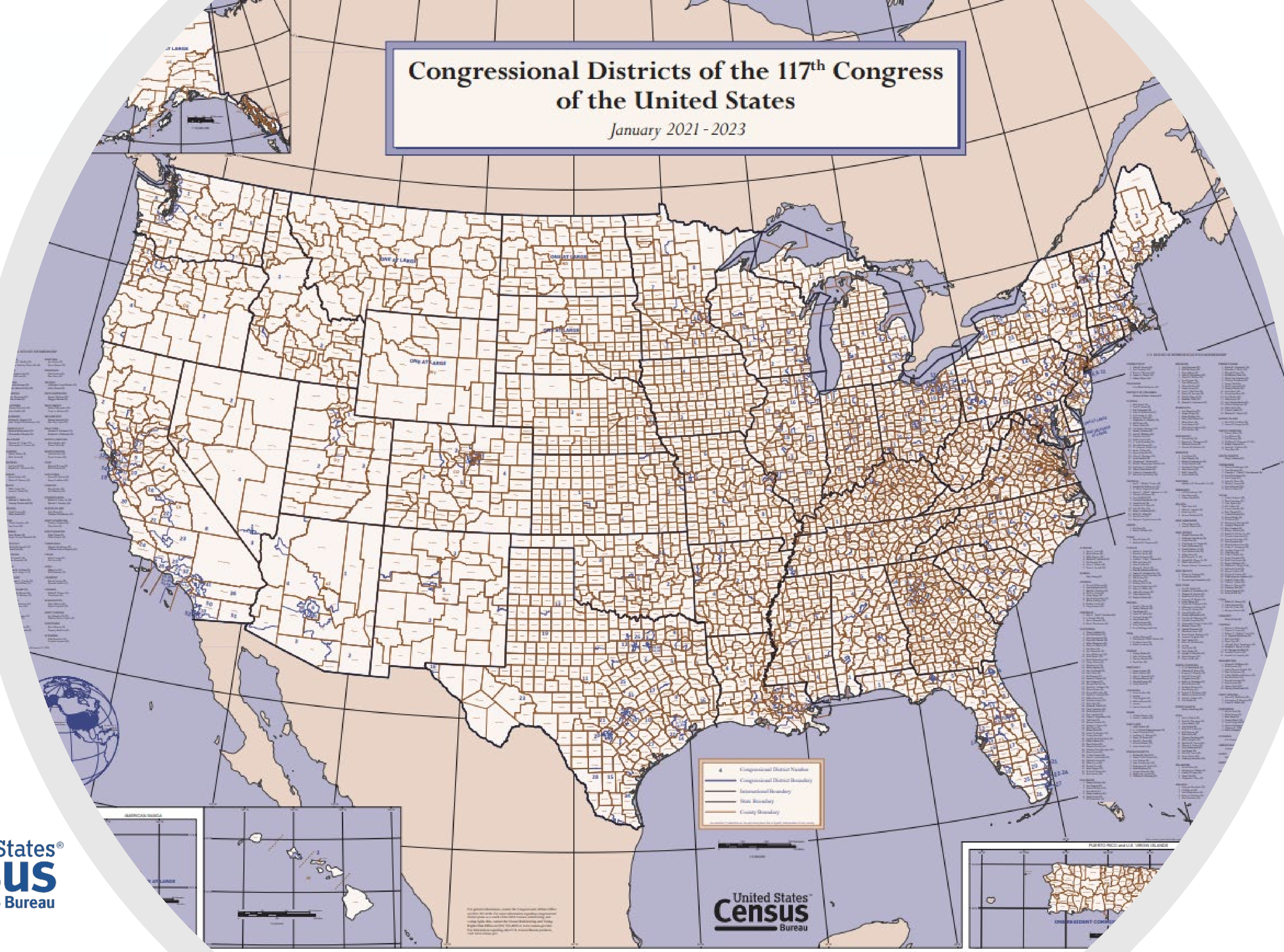
- The areas from which members are elected to state legislatures. The Census Bureau first reported data for SLDs as part of the 2000 Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data File

Voting District (VTD's)

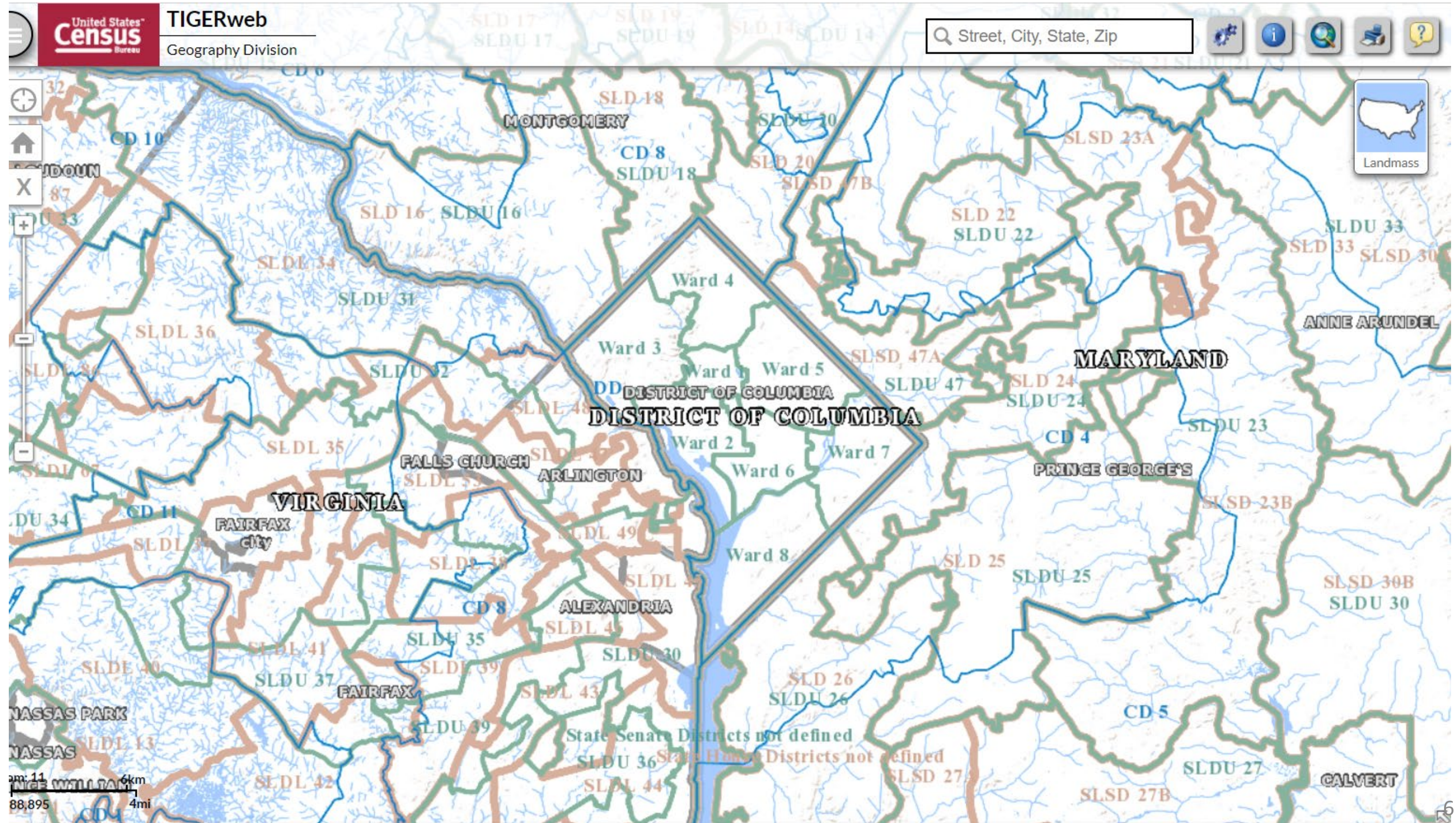
- Refer to the generic name for geographic entities, such as precincts, wards, and election districts, established by state governments for the purpose of conducting elections

Congressional Districts of the 117th Congress of the United States

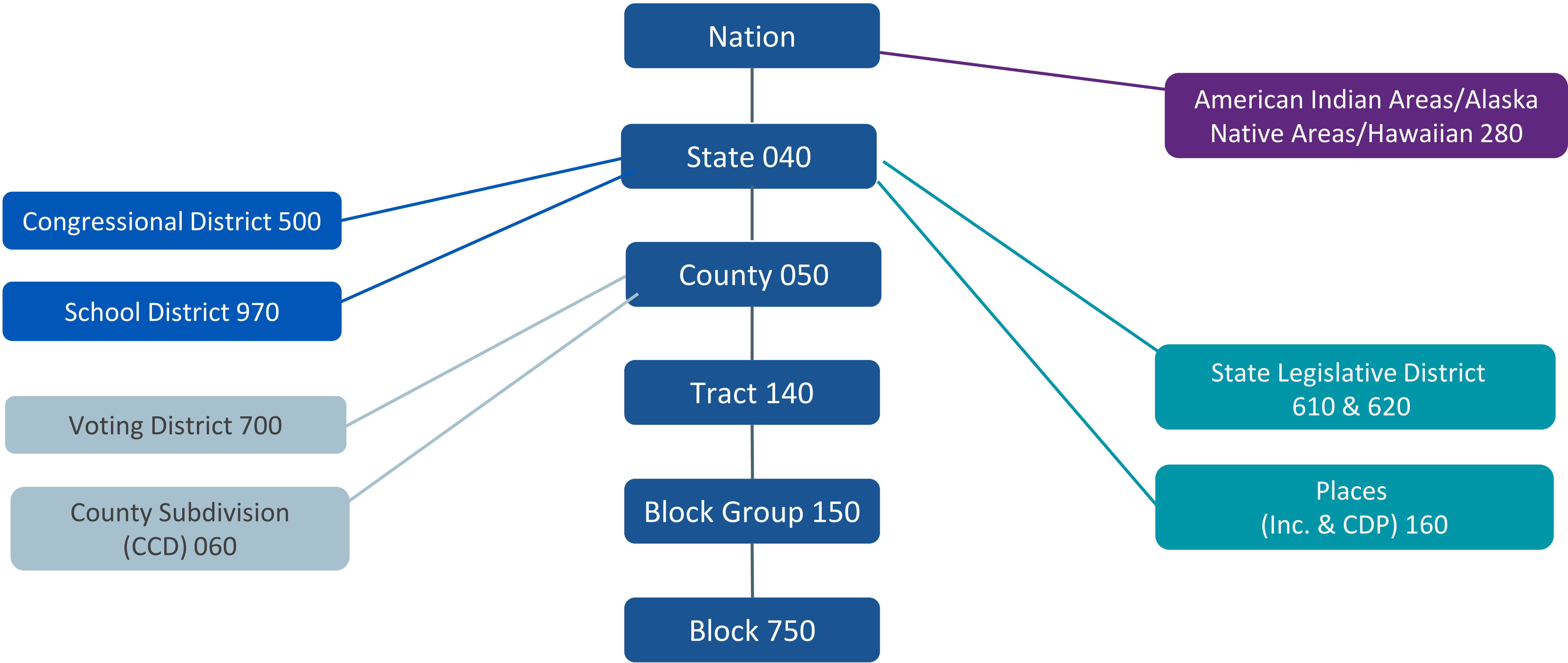
January 2021 - 2023



Administrative Geographies: Congressional Districts and State Legislative Districts

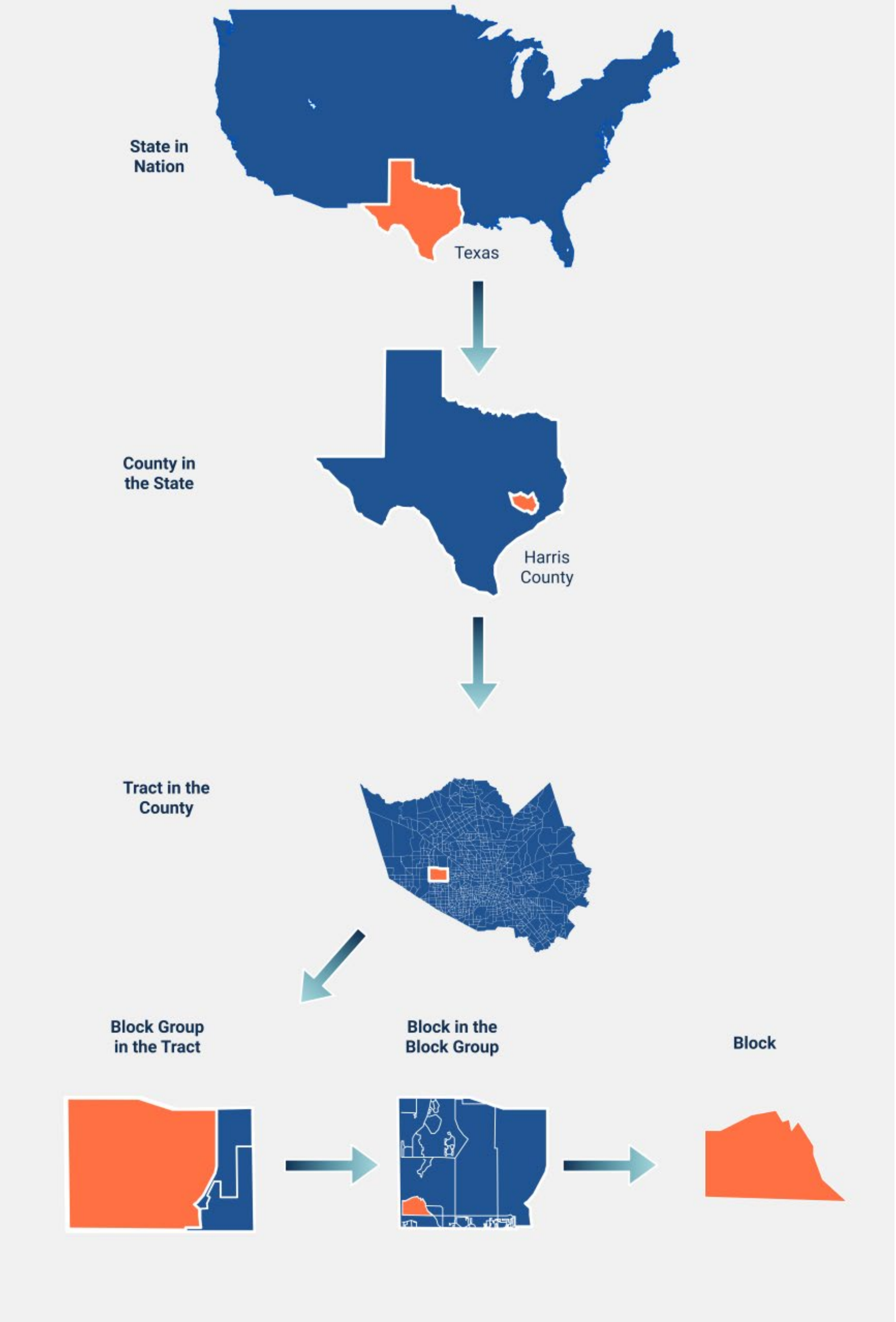
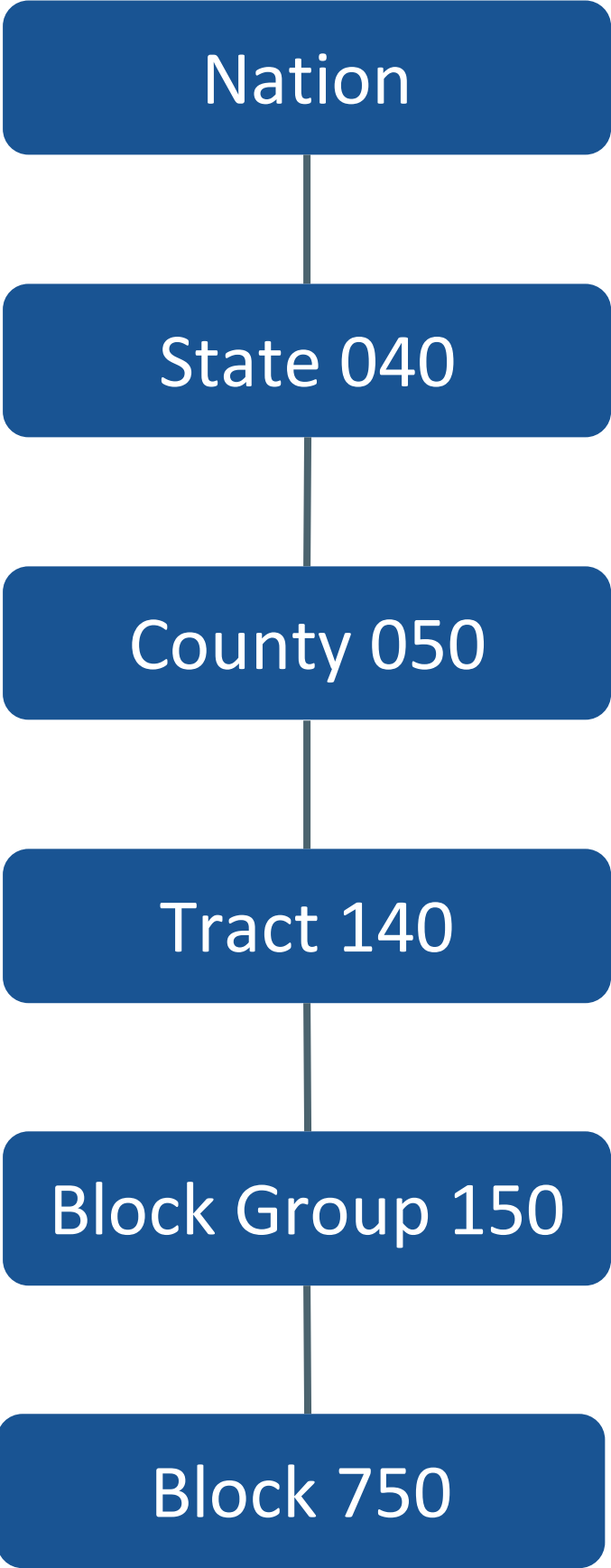


What Areas are P.L. Redistricting Data Available?



Hierarchy of Census Geography

From Nation to Block



2020 Census (P.L.94-171) Geographic Products

- TIGER\Line Shapefiles
- Maps (.pdf format)
- Block Assignment Files
(BAFs) BAFs are meant to be used in conjunction with the NLTs.
- Name Look-up Tables
(NLTs) NLTs are meant to be used in conjunction with the BAFs.
- 2010 to 2020 Tabulation Block Crosswalk Table

Types of Data

- P1. Race
- P2. Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race
- P3. Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- P4. Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- P5. Group Quarters Population by Major Group Quarters Type
- H1. Occupancy Status

Tabular Data
+
**Summary Level
(Geography)**
=
Analysis

- State
- Congressional district
- State legislative district
- American Indian area
- County
- City
- Town
- Census Tract
- Census Block Group
- Census Block
- Voting District

- Race Populations (White, Black, Asian, etc.) in State legislative districts

Uses of Redistricting Data

The ideal district population number=
state population
/
number of districts



Federal and State

- ✓ One person one vote principal
- ✓ Compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- ✓ There is variability in redistricting laws and procedure across states

Other Uses

- ✓ Comparison to other data (2010 to 2020, voting data)
- ✓ Benchmark for annual population estimates and projections
- ✓ Grant writing
- ✓ Research

Lesson 2 Recap

